

REMARKS

The present application has been carefully studied and amended in view of the outstanding Office action dated January 16, 2007, and reconsideration of that Action is requested in view of the following comments.

Claims 1-13 and 17-22 are currently pending in this application. Claims 3-6, 11-13 and 17-22 stand withdrawn, and remaining claims 1, 2 and 7-10 stand rejected.

With respect to the objection to the originally filed Declaration/Power of Attorney, a new Declaration/Power of Attorney accompanies this Response. The new document properly identifies the application by serial number and filing date, and such document is properly executed by the named inventors.

Moreover, the specification has been amended to include a Brief Description of the Drawings. This addition is in response to the objection raised in the Office Action, and the amendments do not include any new matter.

The claims have been amended to address the informalities specifically identified in the Office Action. Appropriate amendments have been made to address each of the noted informalities. As amended, all of the claims are believed to be in proper form and in full compliance with 35 USC §112.

With respect to claim 7, particularly the phrase "compositional resolution", applicant submits the following. As explained in the specification as originally filed, for example at page 3, lines 22-27, any multi component system has a phase space comprising an infinite number of compositions. There is a practical limit to the precision (= resolution) with which phase spaces can be depicted. The higher the desired (compositional) resolution, the greater the number of different concentration mixtures

that have to be produced. Claim 7 recites that one method to achieve a resolution increase by a certain factor is to increase the frequency ratio of two periodic variations of the conveying rate of two conveying devices by the same factor.

Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of the rejected claims is neither shown nor suggested by the prior art taken alone or in combination with one another. Specifically these claims are not anticipated by Nielson et al WO 02/38354 ("Nielson"), for the following reasons.

The Nielson reference teaches that relative amounts of substances are continuously varied (see e.g. page 6, lines 23-30 and Fig. 1 of Nielson) which is different from amounts of substances that are periodically varied.

According to the "Wikipedia" internet encyclopedia "periodic" is defined as an interval of time within which an event, chain of events, instance or happening takes place. It is measured between a starting point and an ending point and generally repeats, or progresses, in a cycle with the end point of one period being the start point of the next. In mathematics, a function whose output contains values that repeat periodically is called a periodic function.

Nielson fails to disclose or suggest periodic variation of rates. None of the graphs of Figure 1 of Nielson depict a periodic function, i.e. a function whose output contains values that repeat periodically. A sinus curve or a sawtooth function would be periodic functions. None of those is anticipated or suggested by Nielson.

Therefore, Nielson neither anticipates nor suggests the invention as recited in all of the claims.

Accordingly, for the reasons discussed above it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By Richard M. Beck

Richard M. Beck

Registration No.: 22,580

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP

1007 North Orange Street

P.O. Box 2207

Wilmington, Delaware 19899

(302) 658-9141

(302) 658-5614 (Fax)

Attorney for Applicant

531530